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SUBJECT: NAS MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2006

Classified By: NAS Director Susan Keogh for Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

SUMMARY

11. (C) The key developments in June 2006:

- ** As of June 27, CORAH eradicated 5,979 hectares of coca.
- ** NAS Director met with the transition team of the newly elected president; they were in a listening mode and did not express strong opinions about any of our policies or programs.
- ** NAS and USAID did a joint program for OMB's David Abraham June 26-28 in San Martin, Santa Lucia, and Callao/Lima.
- ** This month interdiction operations in the VRAE destroyed 62 cocaine base laboratories.
- ** NAS is scheduled to receive its final five UH-2 helicopters in August.
- ** Cocaine seizures continue to increase at ports as more facilities and search capabilities come online.
- ** NAS Demand Reduction Program presented six 1-day workshops on program planning for members of the community anti-drug coalitions.

ERADICATION PACE SLOWS DUE TO PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

12. (U) As of June 27, CORAH had eradicated a total of 5,979 hectares. Eradication operations were temporarily suspended May 29 to June 8, because all police officers were needed to provide security for the Peruvian presidential election on June 4. Small-scale operations resumed after June 8, but full-scale operations with the usual 300 eradicators in the field did not resume until June 19 when the police force that provides eradicator security returned to full strength.

13. (U) In a June 12-15 visit to Colombia, NAS's Narcotic Control Advisor presented the Cocaine Production Averted (CPA) formula to a meeting on coca cultivation and production, attended by 50 Colombians and representatives

from INL, DEA, and NAS-Quito. Separately, reporters from the Associated Press, accompanied by the CHS and CORAH communications teams, traveled to Santa Lucia to visit an eradication operation to document the environmental damage caused by cocaine production as well as its effects on the health of local communities.

TRANSITION TO NEW GOVERNMENT

¶4. (C) Following the election of Alan Garcia as Peru's next President, NAS Director participated in two meetings with his transition team on counter-drug policies. The team was in a listening and learning mode and did not express strong opinions for or against any of our current policies or programs. They expressed concern about alleviating poverty in southern Peru and east of the Andes and about expanding coca cultivation and drug production. They expressed interest in all aspects of U.S. assistance to the Peruvian Government. They requested a breakdown of our current assistance to the police and other programs, which we provided. We emphasized the importance of the capabilities we were providing the GOP through infrastructure building and training activities. We also emphasized the need for more investment by the Peruvian government and better development plans by regional governments as critical to improving the situation.

¶5. (C) On June 28, NAS Director, Police Advisor and members of the Political Section met with UPP Congressman-elect Alvaro Gutierrez (Arequipa), at his request. Gutierrez is a close confidant and advisor to Ollanta Humala, the second highest UPP vote getter and a former police officer. He hopes to be the president of the Congressional Committee on Defense, Alternative Development, and Counter Narcotics. He indicated he wants to cooperate with us against narco-trafficking, particularly the "big fish" and the users in Europe and the U.S. He suggested eradication should be gradual, giving alternatives to the growers.

Visit of OMB's David Abraham

¶6. (U) NAS and USAID did a joint program for OMB's David Abraham June 26-28 in San Martin, Santa Lucia, and Callao/Lima. On June 26, we flew to Juanjui via NAS Beechcraft 1900D, then drove (partly along USAID's recently refurbished Fernando Belaunde Terry Road and crossing rivers by pontoon) to visit cacao farmers in alternative development projects. We also visited ACOPAGRO cacao-processing plants. Then on to Tarapoto by air, where Abraham visited the NAS-supported Institute for Tropical Cultivation and had a chance to meet with former coca growers who are now making a good livelihood growing cacao. On June 27, Abraham flew via helicopter to the coca eradication site near Santa Lucia. Subsequently, in the company of the Vice Minister of Interior, Jose Luis Avilez and PNP Generals, he was given a rousing reception by the 225 cadets at the Santa Lucia police academy. Press and television gave full coverage of the visit and the various counter-narcotics demonstrations by the PNP at Santa Lucia. Abraham also visited the NAS Ports Program facilities at Callao where he saw cargo inspections in progress and visited the unit that inspects cargo manifests.

SEEKING BEST WAY TO LOCATE OPIUM POPPIES

¶7. (SBU) Emboffs met with CADA and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to discuss methodologies to locate opium poppy fields. Experience from Colombia and advice from experts in Peru and Washington indicate that satellite imagery is not useful due to cloud cover during the growing season. Other methods are being explored.

POLICE CONTINUE INTERDICTION OPERATION IN VRAE

¶8. (U) The DIRANDRO Special Operations Group conducted interdiction operations in the Apurimac/Ene Valley (VRAE) from the police base in Palmapampa. In June, this on-going interdiction operation has destroyed 62 cocaine-base laboratories and ton quantities of precursor chemicals and coca leaf. Since the operation began on March 20, 283 cocaine-base laboratories have been destroyed.

FINAL FIVE HUEY-2S SLATED TO ARRIVE IN AUGUST

¶9. (U) NAS is scheduled to receive its final five UH-2 helicopters in August. Presently, there are 19 UH-2s in Peru. A formal ceremony is planned with GOP and USG representatives in Lima to highlight the USG's continuing support for GOP counternarcotics efforts. The Aviation Section continues its program to train pilots and flight crews on such specialized helicopter procedures as fast rope and ground forces recovery deployments, the use of night-vision goggles, and medevac operations.

¶10. (U) A Special Forces team from the Alabama National Guard conducted training at the PNP Pucallpa base June 16-27. NAS and a variety of GOP personnel trained in first-aid, communications, pathfinder and helicopter procedures for external loads, insertion techniques, and survival training. Due to intelligence reports of narco-terrorist activity, NAS strengthen the security measures for the helicopters at the Santa Lucia base by parking helicopters in revetments/bunkers, which offer additional security from mortar and small arms attack. Illumination was increased around the parked helicopters and additional guards were posted at night.

PORT PROCEDURES IMPROVE, LEADING TO MORE SEIZURES

¶11. (SBU) From June 1-25, DIRANDRO and SUNAT (Peruvian Customs) at the Lima Airport seized 159 kg of cocaine HCL and arrested 39 passengers. They also seized a one kg cache of suspected heroin (pending final testing). The SUNAT canine unit detected 97 kg of cocaine HCL. The Peruvian Post Office (SERPOST) found 29 pieces/parcels of mail containing 88 kg of cocaine HCL. Many of these seizures are due to the specialized non-intrusive instruments such as ion scanners, narcotics field testers, and fiber-optics that NAS has provided.

¶12. (SBU) The NAS Ports Program intelligence support group provided information to DIRANDRO and DEA that led to an 800 kg seizure of cocaine. The NAS-sponsored Manifest Review Unit (MRU) at Callao sent out nineteen alert messages to U.S. and international customs and law enforcement entities regarding suspicious cargo that had left Peru. Several alerts have resulted in the seizure of cocaine HCL.

¶13. (SBU) NAS is partnering with DEA in developing a counternarcotics information analysis and early warning system for the Peruvian Coast Guard. The system will link 15 ports with the MRU in Callao. Starting in July, all information from the Peruvian Port Authority will be linked to the MRU via fiber-optic cable. Construction will also start in July on the counternarcotics facilities in Paita, Peru's second leading port. The new facilities will dramatically increase container and loose cargo inspections. Nearly all the containers leaving Paita (approximately 60,000 per year) are headed for the U.S.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR ANTI-DRUG COALITIONS

¶14. (U) NAS staff participated in a CADCA-sponsored two-day training in Charleston, SC, April 20-21. Based on this training, NAS produced a one-day workshop on how to develop a work plan (Logic Model) for community anti-drug coalitions (CAC) that will promote long-term change and sustainability. Workshops were given at all six of the CAC community centers (20-30 people attended each session). NAS is also working

with the evangelical church group Camino de Vida ("Road of Life") to provide leadership training for CAC members. The church is receiving leadership training from the widely published, U.S. leadership speaker John Maxwell, so the church is able to provide volunteer trainers and free study materials to the CACs. The training emphasizes leadership through self-awareness and service to others.

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